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**ACCUSED COCAINE KINGPIN CLAIMS TO BE CIA SPY  
ATLANTA**

A former bail bondsman charged with being the mastermind behind the largest cocaine trafficking ring in the nation's history will go on trial Monday in federal court amid defense charges that the CIA allowed him to deal cocaine in exchange for information.

Federal authorities said they have ordered extra security precautions for the trial of Harold Rosenthal because of reports that he may attempt to escape.

Defense attorneys say Rosenthal was given special dispensation for his alleged cocaine trafficking activities in South America because he was a CIA spy.

A federal prosecutor who asked to remain anonymous called the defense charges that Rosenthal was a CIA operative "horse manure." The prosecutor said the charges were "just a fishing expedition (and) smoke screen -- the whole maneuver."

Spokesmen for the CIA in McLean, Va. and the Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington declined to comment on the charges.

Attorneys for Rosenthal and Anthony Bonadonna, another defendant in the case, say evidence at the trial will reveal that the CIA engineered a daring escape Rosenthal made in 1981 from a federal prison in Memphis, Tenn.

Rosenthal was indicted Jan. 23 along with 29 others after an 18-month investigation by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. The indictment alleges that Rosenthal headed a drug ring that smuggled at least five tons of cocaine into the United States between September 1981 and January 1984.

Rosenthal was arrested last September by Colombian police and U.S. agents as he sat in his car in a traffic jam in Bogota, Colombia. Since then, Rosenthal has been in the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary. Last February, FBI agents intercepted letters he sent from his cell detailing an escape plan involving \$1 million and a team of hired commandoes.

According to court documents filed by defense attorneys, Rosenthal was recruited by the CIA to spy on the M-19s and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Command of Colombia), two Colombian Marxist terrorist groups.

The information Rosenthal funneled to the CIA, the documents said, included information on the two groups, "the movement of arms to the terrorists from (Soviet bloc) countries (and) the purchase of arms from those countries by the terrorists with monies gained from cocaine trafficking."

"U.S. intelligence agencies arranged for Rosenthal to continue his drug trafficking activities in Colombia (as) part of a U.S. intelligence mission to gather vital information on terrorist activities in Colombia," the documents said.